

News

United States
Department
Of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

Boston, MA 02203

Internet address: [http:// www.bls.gov/ro1/home.htm#news](http://www.bls.gov/ro1/home.htm#news)

USDL-03-308

For information: (617) 565-2327

For release: Friday,

Media information: (617) 565-2331

November 21, 2003

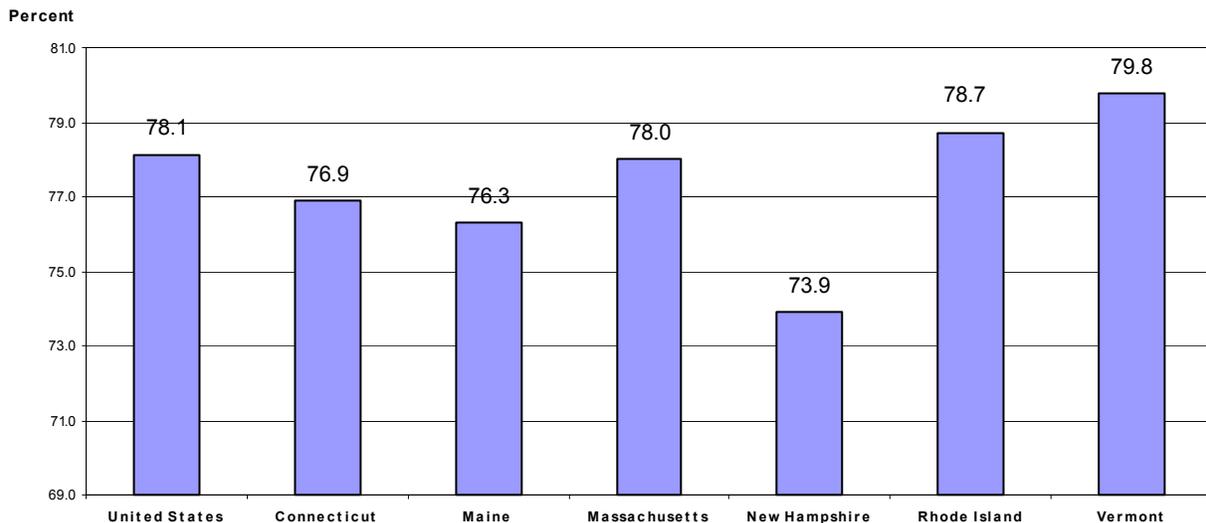
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Women's Earnings in the New England States, 2002

Nationwide, women's earnings were about 78 percent as much as those of men in 2002, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regional Commissioner Denis M. McSweeney noted that in 1979, when comparable earnings data were first available, women earned about 63 percent as much as men did. While the overall female-to-male earnings ratio has narrowed over time, wide variations still exist between the states—from 86.0 percent in Maryland to 66.2 percent in Wyoming in 2002. However, the disparity between women's and men's earnings in the New England states was much less variable than it was nationwide. (Earnings data presented in this report come from the Current Population Survey.)

Chart 1: Women's earnings as percent of men's for the United States and New England States, 2002



In New England, the earnings gap between women and men ranged from 79.8 percent in Vermont to 73.9 percent in New Hampshire. Rhode Island (78.7 percent) and Massachusetts (78.0

percent) reported female-to-male earnings ratios close to the national average, while Connecticut (76.9 percent) and Maine (76.3 percent) fell a bit below. (Comparisons by sex are on a broad level and do not control for many factors, such as educational attainment or age, that can be significant in explaining earnings differences. Variations in the occupation and industry composition of state labor forces also affect these comparisons.)

Nationally, the median weekly earnings of female full-time wage and salary workers were \$530 in 2002. Within New England, usual weekly earnings for women workers were higher than average in Connecticut (\$647), Massachusetts (\$621), Rhode Island (\$567), and New Hampshire (\$553). In addition, Connecticut and Massachusetts were two of only seven states nationally to record women's weekly earnings above \$600 in 2002. Both Vermont (\$513) and Maine (\$509) were slightly below the national average, but not among the lowest which included Montana (\$418), Arkansas (\$431) and West Virginia (\$439).

Full-time wage and salary earnings for men averaged \$680 in the U.S. The same four New England states with higher than average earnings for women also had above average earnings for men--Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island. Overall, Connecticut, averaging \$842, was one of only three states nationally, along with Alaska and New Jersey, to record median weekly earnings for men above \$800 for 2002.

For more information on the median weekly earnings of women see Bureau of Labor Statistics Report 972, "Highlights of Women's Earnings in 2002", issued September 2003; copies are available on the Internet at <http://www.bls.gov/cps/cpswom2002.pdf> or by calling the Boston Information Office at (617) 565-2327.

Explanatory Note

This release presents estimates from the Current Population Survey (CPS), which provides a wide range of information on the labor force, employment, and unemployment. The CPS is a sample survey conducted monthly for the Bureau of Labor Statistics by the U.S. Census Bureau from a scientifically selected national sample of about 60,000 households, with coverage in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The earnings data are collected from one-quarter of the CPS monthly sample and are limited to wages and salaries. The data, therefore, exclude self-employment income.

Statistics based on the CPS data are subject to both sampling and nonsampling error. The differences among data for the States reflect, in part, variations in the occupation, industry, and age composition of each State's labor force. In addition, sampling error for the State estimates is considerably larger than it is for the national data. The 2002 annual averages in this press release incorporate new population controls that reflect the results of Census 2000. Data for 2000 and 2001 were also revised to incorporate the new population controls and may differ from previously published figures. As a result, data for 2000 forward are not strictly comparable with data for previous years.

Definitions

The principal definitions used in connection with the earnings series in this release are described below.

Usual weekly earnings. Data represent earnings before taxes and other deductions and include any overtime pay, commissions, or tips usually received (at the main job in the case of multiple jobholders.)

Median weekly earnings. The median is the amount which divides a given earnings distribution into two equal groups, one having earnings above the median and the other having earnings below the median.

Wage and salary workers. Workers who receive wages, salaries, commissions, tips, payment in kind, or piece rates. The group includes employees in both the private and public sectors but, for the purposes of the earnings series, excludes all self-employed persons, regardless of whether or not their businesses are incorporated.

Full-time worker. Workers who usually work 35 hours or more per week at their sole or principal job.

Table 1. Median usual weekly earnings of full-time wage and salary workers by sex and State, 2002 annual averages

State	Both sexes			Women			Men			Women's earnings as percent of men's ¹
	Number of workers (in thousands)	Median weekly earnings	Standard error of median	Number of workers (in thousands)	Median weekly earnings	Standard error of median	Number of workers (in thousands)	Median weekly earnings	Standard error of median	
UNITED STATES	100,204	\$609	\$1	43,773	\$530	\$2	56,431	\$680	\$2	78.1
Alabama	1,519	548	14	704	471	11	815	638	17	73.8
Alaska	216	741	12	94	619	11	122	860	20	72.0
Arizona	1,784	593	7	733	518	10	1,051	659	14	78.6
Arkansas	890	491	7	408	431	10	482	542	20	79.5
California	11,445	645	7	4,758	591	5	6,688	700	7	84.4
Colorado	1,638	640	13	664	582	10	974	700	14	83.1
Connecticut	1,220	738	13	551	647	12	669	842	18	76.9
Delaware	313	648	11	145	582	10	168	728	17	79.9
District of Columbia	236	715	17	119	672	15	117	759	22	88.5
Florida	5,683	551	8	2,507	487	5	3,175	608	6	80.2
Georgia	3,208	590	7	1,423	513	8	1,785	632	14	81.2
Hawaii	401	610	10	191	536	19	210	700	18	76.6
Idaho	427	537	12	174	469	10	253	602	11	78.0
Illinois	4,515	631	7	2,015	555	9	2,500	726	10	76.4
Indiana	2,317	596	8	1,004	497	9	1,313	693	16	71.8
Iowa	1,074	577	9	474	502	8	600	644	16	78.0
Kansas	964	579	9	427	514	9	537	643	18	80.0
Kentucky	1,366	555	12	620	485	8	747	627	15	77.3
Louisiana	1,401	534	13	631	454	12	770	620	12	73.2
Maine	453	593	9	203	509	8	250	667	17	76.3
Maryland	2,075	707	15	974	655	13	1,101	762	18	86.0
Massachusetts	2,377	712	10	1,026	621	8	1,350	796	12	78.0
Michigan	3,443	656	8	1,479	571	9	1,964	761	11	75.0
Minnesota	1,889	689	11	820	609	8	1,070	763	14	79.9
Mississippi	893	510	7	421	460	10	472	593	11	77.7
Missouri	2,083	610	9	960	537	17	1,124	680	17	79.0
Montana	281	533	12	124	418	9	157	614	12	68.2
Nebraska	625	558	10	278	480	9	347	629	13	76.4
Nevada	843	560	11	349	496	8	495	609	8	81.5
New Hampshire	479	653	13	201	553	18	277	748	17	73.9
New Jersey	3,229	738	7	1,376	651	11	1,854	815	15	80.0
New Mexico	586	534	15	249	478	11	337	592	12	80.7
New York	6,448	636	5	2,877	572	7	3,571	720	10	79.5
North Carolina	2,864	562	9	1,282	491	6	1,582	615	7	79.9
North Dakota	228	515	7	103	451	11	125	590	9	76.4
Ohio	4,064	612	6	1,762	515	5	2,301	691	11	74.6
Oklahoma	1,158	531	12	524	469	11	634	598	10	78.4
Oregon	1,171	615	10	486	529	12	684	697	15	75.9
Pennsylvania	4,303	616	5	1,885	530	8	2,418	687	11	77.1
Rhode Island	368	642	14	161	567	17	207	721	18	78.7
South Carolina	1,395	579	10	641	503	8	754	640	14	78.5
South Dakota	273	507	6	122	442	8	151	582	12	75.9
Tennessee	2,078	533	13	957	481	7	1,121	610	10	78.8
Texas	7,489	542	7	3,224	488	5	4,265	600	7	81.4
Utah	712	588	9	274	487	10	438	665	15	73.2
Vermont	222	588	10	101	513	9	120	643	18	79.8
Virginia	2,749	654	10	1,250	598	10	1,499	734	13	81.5
Washington	2,026	675	13	836	582	13	1,190	763	19	76.3
West Virginia	580	524	10	247	439	13	333	594	13	73.9
Wisconsin	2,028	612	7	863	515	7	1,165	703	14	73.4
Wyoming	177	581	8	76	454	11	101	686	12	66.2

¹ These figures are computed using unrounded medians and may differ slightly from percents computed using the rounded medians displayed in this table.

NOTE: Data refer to persons 16 years and over.